

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 40 and 42 have been amended.

Prior to discussing the substantive issues, Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement on June 30, 2003. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the references cited and return to Applicants' representative an initialed Form PTO-1449. If the Examiner is unable to locate the Information Disclosure Statement, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Nashiki, U.S. Patent No. 6,144,132. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nashiki fails to disclose a rotary electric machine with a flux concentrating rotor comprising permanent magnets disposed between non-magnetically interconnected pole pieces, as recited in claim 1.

Nashiki discloses a permanent magnet motor comprising individual permanent magnets 7 placed between N magnetic poles 5 and S magnetic poles 6. All of the N magnetic poles are connected to the N pole magnetic circuit. Similarly, all of the S magnetic poles 6 are connected to the S pole magnetic circuit. Moreover, the flux from each of the S or N poles are magnetically associated inside the rotor by the S or N pole magnetic circuit, so that it is possible to supply flux from an S or N pole magnetic pole without the need for flux supplied to another S or N pole magnetic pole (col. 7, lines 23-27).

Accordingly, Nashiki discloses the opposite of Applicants' claimed invention because Nashiki teaches the interconnection of pole pieces whereas Applicants' claim 1 comprises pole pieces disposed between non-magnetically interconnected pole pieces. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2-8, 13-25, 30 and 32-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nashiki, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Yates, U.S. Patent No. 4,618,792 in view of JP 411004553 (JP '553). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Neither Yates nor JP '553 overcome the deficiencies of Nashiki as applied to claim 1. In addition, claims 2-8, 13-25, 30 and 32-38 recite additional features of the invention and are also believed to be allowable for reasons set forth in claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein. Applicants also note that on pages 3-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner broadly states that Yates or JP '553 discloses the additional features of Applicants' claims 2-8, 13-25, 30 and 32-38. However, the Examiner fails to specify where Yates or JP '553 discloses the additional features. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner particularly point out where he believes that Yates or JP '553 discloses the features of claims 2-8, 13-25, 30 and 32-38.

Applicants assert that none of the applied references disclose a flux concentrating rotor comprising permanent magnets disposed between non-magnetically interconnected pole pieces, as recited in claims 40 and 42, for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Claim 39 recites a rotary electric machine comprising a stator with teeth, each tooth comprising two non-parallel opposite planar faces and claim 41 recites a rotary electric machine with a stator comprising a concentrated winding, the concentrated winding comprising at least one individual coil comprising a plurality of superposed turns of a substantially flat bundle of insulated wires wound around a winding axis, in such a manner that a cross-section of the bundle has a long dimension that extends substantially perpendicularly to the winding axis. Applicants assert that none of the applied references disclose these features. In addition, Applicants also note that the Office Action has failed to set forth reasons why the applied references disclose the features recited in claims 39 and 41. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nashiki in view of Yates and JP '553 as applied to claims 2-8, 13-25, 30 and 32-42 and further in view of Curtis, Jr. et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,896,839, and claims 26-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nashiki in view of Yates and JP '553 as applied to claims 2-8, 13-25, 30, and 32-42 and further in view of Guers, U.S. Patent No. 4,688,951. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants assert that none of the applied references overcome the deficiencies of Nashiki as applied to claim 1. Additionally, claims 26-29 and 31 recite additional features of the invention and are also believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability for claims 9-12. However, for the reasons discussed above, Applicants assert that all of claims 1-42 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-42 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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